

In re Appln. of Gloaguen
Application No. 10/004,984

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including a vent element adapted to allow air flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/or water entering into the interior space whereby excess air pressure within the interior can be reduced by air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means, the vent element comprising a porosity calibrated Teflon material structure.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is a flexible bellows.
4. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is secured at each end with a respective collar element.
5. (Previously Presented) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air pressure within the interior is maintained at a desired air pressure.

In re Appln. of Gloaguen
Application No. 10/004,984

6. (Previously Presented) A cover as claimed in claim 5, wherein the desired air pressure is that of the ambient atmospheric air pressure adjacent the protective cover.
7. (Original) A protective cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is located at one end of the deformable structure.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is replaceable in the vent means.
11. (Previously Presented) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is adapted to expel at least some of any contaminates and/or water associated with it upon outward air movements through the vent element as the deformable structure and therefore the interior space is deformed.
12. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is configured as a spout comprising a first portion outwardly perpendicular to the major axis of the cover

In re Appln. of Gloaguen
Application No. 10/004,984

and a second portion parallel to that major axis of the cover whereby the vent means has a substantially "L" shaped configuration.

13. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, made from an elastomeric material.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is adapted to prevent lubricant escaping from the interior space.
16. (Original) A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is formed separately from the cover and is subsequently connected to the cover.
17. (Original) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the material of the cover enters the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.
18. (Original) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the vent means are connected to the cover by a mechanical bond.

In re Appln. of Gloaguen
Application No. 10/004,984

19. (Original) A protective cover arrangement, comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1 respectively secured about the ends of a steering arrangement within a motor vehicle in order to protect that steering arrangement.
20. (Original) A protective cover arrangement comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1, secured about a motor vehicle transmission joint to protect that transmission joint.
21. (Currently Amended) A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends first end, a second end, a small diameter sealing collar at said first end, a larger diameter sealing collar at said second end, a plurality of bellows turns extending between small diameter sealing collar and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including a vent element adapted to allow air flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/or water entering into the cover interior space whereby excess air pressure within the interior can be reduced by air evacuation and aspiration through the vent means, the vent means being a separate structure from the cover, the protective cover further comprising one of said collars including material forming a radially extending hole through the collar, said material being attached to the vent means to form a coupling between the vent means and the cover.

In re Appln. of Gloaguen
Application No. 10/004,984

22. (Previously Presented) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the cover is formed of a material, and coupling comprises the material being disposed within the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.
23. (Previously Presented) A cover according to claim 16 wherein the coupling comprises mechanical bond.